

LAST DAY OF OLD COURTS

Passing Away of the Oyer and
Terminer Was Marked by
No Ceremony.

Established by the Duke of York a
Year After the Capitulation of
New Amsterdam.

SUPERIOR COURT, TOO, IS NO MORE.

Its Judges Yesterday Presented a Series
of Resolutions to Chief Judge Sedg-
wick—Changes in the City Court
for the New Year.

The last session of the Court of Oyer
and Terminer was held yesterday, and
without any ceremony that old criminal
tribunal passed out of existence. To-day

The Court of Oyer and Terminer, the branch of the Supreme Court in which important criminal cases have been tried, was two hundred and thirty years old. In 1955, one year after the capitulation of New Amsterdam, it was established. The Oyer and Terminer corresponded to the Court of Common Pleas, which also passed out of existence with the old year. The court was created by the Duke of York and was the highest tribunal in the province.

The "Duke's Law," which was based on

merely on the English laws, with little or no regard to the Dutch ones already in practice, made it a capital offence, fit for the consideration of a Court of Oyer and Terminer, and punishable by death, for

any person to deny the truth of creed or his attributes," for "an Indian to pow-wow or perform outward worship to the devil," or for young persons over sixteen years of age to "smite" their father or mother, "unless forced thereto in self-preservation." The last offence was punishable by death only when the charge was performed by the victim's father.

When the English evacuated New York, in 1783, Justice Ludlow, the only remaining Colonial Judge of the Supreme Court, went to Canada, and all of the judicial records, including those of the Oyer and Terminer, were carried away by the English. Consequently, the record of the court extends back only to March 15, 1784, at

The first session of the court convened as a State Court. It was held on March 15, 1784, in Federal Hall, then in Wall street. Chief Justice Morris, of the Supreme

James Duane, and five of the seven Aldermen, presided. The prosecutor was the Attorney-General. The court's sessions were held in an almost empty room, and extended into the night by the use of candle light. In strong contrast to this frugality of surroundings is the room where the last session of the grand jury held in the city.

At the opening of "Part I, Trial Term, of the Supreme Court, for the Trial of Indictment on Monday, Justice Frederick St. John, who has been on the bench for many years was sworn in by the Chief Justice. Mr. St. John will represent the people, assisted by Assistant District Attorneys McIntyre and Hennessee. It is expected that the new

There are awaiting the disposition of the court thirty cases of manslaughter. The cases set down for the opening day are those of Michael McIlwain, who killed his sweetheart, Rose Finn; Michael Cousidine, who shot John J. Malone, and William

SUPERIOR COURT RESOLUTIONS.
The Superior Court passed out of existence yesterday. The Judges presented the following resolutions to their chief:
"Hon. John Sedgwick, Chief Judge Su-

"As the court over which you have for many years presided terminated its functions December 31, 1895, we cannot allow the occasion to pass without thanking you for the uniform courtesy and assistance extended to us by you during your sojourn with the court.

your former associates, we remain,
 "JOHN J. FREEDMAN,
 "P. HENRY DUGRO,
 "DAVID M'ADAM,
 "B. A. GILDESLLEEVE,
 "HENRY R. BEEKMAN."

The court clerks presented to Colonel Henry Wagsstaff, chief clerk of the new

Appellate division, yesterday in the case of resolutions. The report of the Surrogates for the past year shows that 1,788 wills have been admitted to probate and that six have been rejected. One hundred and ten wills were contested during the year. The Surrogates wrote 2,643 decisions. Assessed and fixed taxes were certi-

Justice Batty, who was appointed by Governor Marton to fill the vacancy on the City Court Bench created by the death of Chief Justice Ehrlich, left the Bench yesterday. To-day is the first of Chief Justice Van Winkle's second term. Justices

The City Court report shows that 824 jury trials and 561 inquests were held in its parts during the year. Seven hundred and fifty persons were committed as insane, and 213 orders of arrest were issued. The Justices signed 28,400 ex-parte orders, and

THOUGHT HE KNEW IT ALL.
Why Horowitz Got Scalded in a Turkish Bath.
Michael Horowitz, of No. 115 Broome

street, who was scalded at the Turkish bath establishment No. 20 Orchard street, recently, was transferred from Gouverneur to Bellevue Hospital yesterday. It will be several weeks before he will be able to go out. His scalding is due to the fact that he was scalded at the Turkish bath establishment.

On Sunday Horowitz decided that three of his friends needed a bath, and accompanied them to the establishment. He arranged with the attendant that he was to be both host and attendant, and declared

The thermometer was in the neighborhood of 125 degrees, but Horowitz wanted it to go higher. He turned on the steam, and the next instant, with a yell of pain, made a dash from the room into a cold plunge bath.

WERE NOT PARTED FOR LONG.
A Husband of Eighty-six Follows to the
Grave, a Wife of Eighty-seven.
There is one fresh grave in the cem-

The first is that of Mrs. Marion Needham, who died Christmas Day at the home of her daughter, No. 322 Roeboling street, Williamsburg. She was eighty-seven years old.

Four days is not long. He died on day. The couple had been married sixty years.